European Health Union

Stronger crisis preparedness and response for Europe

13 November 2013

Tackling health crises

Coronavirus impact

8.2 million
infected people in the EU since January 2020

€2.7 billion
EU emergency support for coronavirus health response, e.g. medicines, vaccines and protective equipment

66% of citizens
want more EU responsibility in health crises

Early lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic show that **the EU needs**:
- ➢ more **coordination**
- ➢ more **resilient health systems**, and
- ➢ to **be better prepared** for future crises

European Health Union package
11 November 2020

First steps towards European Health Union, as announced in SOTEU; a set of proposals to:

1. strengthen the **EU's health security framework**, and

2. **reinforce** the crisis preparedness and response **role of key EU agencies**.

1. A stronger EU health security framework

The EC proposes a **new Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health** to:

➢ **Strengthen preparedness**: adoption of plans at national levels; comprehensive and transparent frameworks for reporting and auditing

➢ **Reinforce surveillance**: surveillance system at EU level, using AI and other advanced technological means

➢ **Improve data reporting:** reporting of health systems indicators

A declaration of an EU emergency situation would trigger increased coordination and allow for the development, stockpiling and procurement of crisis relevant products.

2. Stronger and more operational EU Agencies

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
Defending Europe against infectious diseases

CURRENT MANDATE

FUTURE MANDATE

Networking and information exchange → · Recommend measures for outbreak control

Monitoring based on diverse data sets → · State-of-the-art **epidemiological surveillance** to monitor infectious disease outbreaks based on common standards and definitions

Non-binding guidance and risk assessments → · Concrete recommendations for response

Early warning and response mechanism for exchange of information →
· **Early warning and response mechanism** for
  – Alertness
  – Information exchange
  – Preparedness planning

Cooperation with Member States' experts →
· **Network of reference laboratories** for crisis-relevant advice on new pathogens and network on substances of human origin, e.g. tissues, cells and blood

2. Stronger and more operational EU Agencies

ECDC's mandate will be reinforced so that it may support the Commission and Member States in the following areas:

➤ epidemiological surveillance via integrated systems enabling real-time surveillance

➤ preparedness and response planning, reporting and auditing

➤ provision of non-binding recommendations and options for risk management

➤ capacity to mobilise and deploy EU Health Task Force to assist local response in Member States

➤ building a network of EU reference laboratories and a network for substances of human origin.

Thank you!

WHAT WE NEED

1 More and better EU interventions

2 More and better data

3 Better testing and contact tracing

4 Better preparedness planning at all levels

5 Ensure supplies of medicines and protective equipment

WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

- **Emergency declaration at EU-level** to ensure EU measures

- **EU Health Task Force** and training for healthcare staff

- Stronger EU guidance on common response measures and implementation responsibilities

- State-of-the-art **monitoring** of epidemiological situation
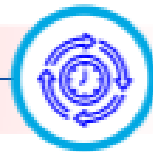
- Risk assessment based on common data

- A new authority to **develop and procure biomedical and other solutions** to enable better testing and contact tracing

- Harmonised EU, national and regional **preparedness and response plans**

- Regular **auditing and stress-testing** of national preparedness plans

- **Monitoring of medicines** and medical devices supply

- The new authority to **develop and procure biomedical products** will ensure fast response to urgent needs in health emergencies